Burg Roetteln

The Most Distinguished Surname

Funk

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Origins

The ancient and distinguished surname Funk is of German origin. It is derived from the Middle High German "funke," meaning "spark," and was most likely originally used to denote a blacksmith. Alternatively, it may have originally been bestowed as a nickname to indicate a very lively person.

Ancient History

The royal duchy of Swabia, which now forms the modern German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, has been established as the place of origin of the name Funk. In the 1st century, Swabia was originally settled by the tribe of the Sueben who came from central Germany, driving the Celts to Gaul (France). The Sueben prince Ariovist was defeated by Caesar in battle at Mulhouse, Alsace in 58 B.C. Following the end of the Roman era, the Germanic Alemans from the north and the Bajuvaren from the east entered the region between 300 and 500 A.D. They were in turn defeated by the Franks under Clovis in 496. The whole kingdom became eventually known as Alemannia. The dukedom of Swabia, formed in the 10th century, was ruled by the Hohenstaufen family from 1079 until they died out in 1268, when the counts of Wuerttemberg took control. Two other imperial dynasties also came from Swabia: the Habsburgs and the Hohenzollerns, Kings of Prussia and the last German emperors until 1918. Eberhard I doubled the size of his domain and made Stuttgart his residence, now Baden-Wuerttemburg's capital. Eberhard II defeated the League of Swabian Cities in 1388.

The duchy consisted of the regions of Alemania, Wuerttemberg, Baden, Alsace, and finally the northeastern part of Switzerland. Eastern Swabia eventually became part of the Bavarian Kingdom, and Baden was an independent grand duchy, while the southern region became part of the Swiss Federation in 1499. Alsace was ruled directly by the French monarch, and throughout history has changed hands between Germany and France several times. What remained of the ancient territory of Swabia became known as Wuerttemburg.

During the Middle Ages records show the name in Baden, as well as the Rhineland and Pomerania, where the name was anciently associated with the tribal conflicts of the areas. The young Funk family declared allegiances to many nobles and princes of early history, lending its influence in struggles for power and status within the region. It branched into many houses, and its contributions were sought by many leaders in their search for power. The origins of the name make it likely that several branches of the Funk family emerged independently in various areas of Germany. The earliest recorded bearer of the name was a knight called Funke, who was living in the town of Rüdesheim in 1280.

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Spelling Variations

Throughout the course of history most surnames have undergone many changes in spelling and pronunciation, even between father and son. In the same way, names change by adding a word or phrase to the beginning or the end of a name. In the times when very few people could write, scribes would often spell a name the way it sounded, and introduce a new spelling of the name that would become common usage. During the course of our research we have found a number of variations of the name Funk, including Funck, Funcke, Funcken, Funk, Funke, Funken, Funkh, Funckenheim, Funckner, Funkhauser and Fankhauserto name a few examples.

Early History

The troubled reign of Ulrich I caused the Swabian League to order his expulsion, and the members sold the duchy to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who in turn gave it to his brother Ferdinand I, the German king. Ulrich took advantage of the political unrest of the Reformation and regained his power in 1534, although Swabia remained subject to the power of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Ulrich and his successors, supported by Philipp of Hessen, also attempted to convert their subjects to the reformed faith, endowing schools and churches throughout the territory.

In the centuries between the Medieval and the Rennaissance, the surname emerged in Baden, where they emerged as a notable family name early in the Middle Ages. During these turbulent times there were many changing religious and political allegiances. There were many houses of the same family name and they branched to many locations, even some to distant parts where members of the family were enlisted in military, political, or religious service. They branched into Sweden, Germany, and Prussia where they held titles and estates. The Swedish branch was raised to the nobility in 1646 and became Barons in 1723. The Prussian branch was also elevated to the nobility in 1836.

Early Notables

Notables with the surname Funk during this period were Hans Funk (c.1504-1539), a German painter; Friedrich Funcke (1642-1699), a German composer from Nossen, Saxony; Johannes Fankhauser (1666-1746), a German military general; and Christlieb Benedikt Funck (1736-1786), a prominent scientist from Saxony.

The Great Migration

By 1599, however, Frederick I brought Swabian independence. Fighting on the side of the north, Swabia suffered destruction through the Thirty Years War, and later through a series of French invasions. In 1733, the new duke Alexander embraced the Roman Catholic faith and attempted unsuccessfully to reintroduce it to his subjects. Since his death in 1737 the royal house has adhered to Protestantism.

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Settlers

- Hans Funk, who arrived in America in 1731 [1]
- Samuel Funk, who arrived in America in 1731 [1]
- Hendrick Funk, aged 36, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1738 [1]
- Anna Funk, who settled in Philadelphia in 1738
- Georg Funk, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1741 [1]
- Hans Nicholas Funk, who arrived in New York, NY in 1754 [1]
- Martin Funk, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1761 [1]
- Joseph Funk, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1765 [1]
- Frederick Funk, who landed in Allegany (Allegheny) County, Pennsylvania in 1836 [1]
- Bernhard Funk, who landed in North America in 1837 [1]
- Valentin Funk, who landed in North America in 1837 [1]

As well as 51 more in the Appendix.

Current Notables

After their arrival at the eastern ports, many Germans immigrants moved West and worked in skilled occupations and in agriculture. Some newer settlers came directly to Texas and the Midwest.

- Lorenz Funk Sr. (1947-2017) German bronze medalist ice hockey player who played for the West German national team
- Wes Funk (1968-2015) Canadian writer based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Brigadier-General Arnold John Funk (1895-1980) American Commandant of Camp Edwards (1952) [2]
- Corporal Jesse Nathaniel Funk (1888-1933) United States Army soldier and a recipient of the Medal of Honor
- Herbert Funk Goodrich (1889-1962) judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- Isaac Kauffman Funk (1839-1912) American publisher and co-founder of Funk & Wagnalls Co. in 1891 which was best known for its Standard Dictionary of the English Language (1893)
- Casimir Funk (1884-1967) Polish biochemist who discovered vitamins in 1912
- Leonard A Funk (1916-1992) highly decorated American soldier awarded both the Medal of Honor and the Croix de Guerre during WWII [3]
- Christian Funk (1731-1811) American Mennonite bishop and author
- Dory Funk (1919-1973) American professional wrestler

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- Joseph Funk (1778-1862) pioneer American music teacher and publisher

As well as 86 more in the Appendix.

Historic Events

- Miss Annie Clemmer Funk (d.1912) aged 38, Indian Second Class passenger from Janjgir-Champa, India who sailed aboard the RMS Titanic and died in the sinking [4]
- Mr. Frank Francis Funk, American Boatswain's Mate Second Class from Missouri, USA working aboard the ship "USS Arizona" when she sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7th December 1941, he died in the sinking [5]
- Mr. Lawrence Henry Funk, American Seaman First Class from Wisconsin, USA working aboard the ship "USS Arizona" when she sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7th December 1941, he died in the sinking [5]

As well as 2 more in the Appendix.

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Symbolism

Introduction

In the feudal states of the Holy Roman Empire, that at one time encompassed most of eastern Europe, it was especially important to be able to identify enemies from allies because of the many conflicts that occurred there. A system of heraldry evolved that achieved this. It regulated what arms were borne, and allowed each of the German knights to be distinguishable from others.

Achievement of Arms of Funk

An Achievement of Arms such as the Funk arms depicted on the left typically consists of these parts: the Escrolls, displaying the family motto and name, the family crest (if any) seen above the helmet, the actual Coat of arms (also known as 'arms,' or 'the shield'), the Helmet depicted below the crest, the Torse on top of the helmet, and the Mantle draped from the helmet. Each of these elements will be described below. Supporters were a later addition to the Achievement; they are somewhat rare, and are usually personal to the grantee.

Mantle of Funk

The mantle was spread over and draped from the helmet and served as a protection, 'to repel the extremities of wet, cold, and heat, and to preserve the armour from rust.' The numerous cuts and slits suggest that it had been torn and hacked on the field of battle. The style or design of the mantling is up to the individual heraldic artist, and it is usually depicted in the main color and metal from the shield. The helmet (or Helm) varied in shape in different ages and countries, often depicting rank. The Esquire's Helm, as depicted here, is generally shown silver, with a closed visor and facing to the dexter (its right). On top of the helmet is a Torse or wreath which was formed by two pieces of silk twisted together. Its purpose was to hold the crest and mantle on the Helm.

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Motto

The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

The coat of arms displayed here for the surname Funk did not include a motto.

Shield

Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Funk can be described as follows:

The Funk Shield

FUNK ARMS

A silver shield with a gold and black lion rampant guardant, crowned.

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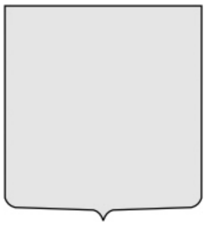


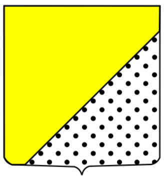
SILVER SHIELD

SILVER SHIELD

Silver, known by the French term "argent," is one of the two metals used in heraldry. It is usually represented on a shield by the colors gray or white. This metal represents nobility, peace and serenity. It is associated with the qualities of purity and chastity, because the metal withstands the test of fire.

Symbolic Virtues: It guards innocence and gives celestial happiness. It denotes virginity in maidens and chastity in widows. It also lends justice to judges and represents the virtues of Humility, Innocence, and Happiness. Celestially, the color represents the moon.

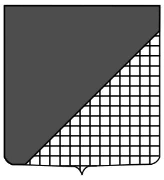
Precious Stone: Pearl
Planet: Moon
Obligations: Help maidens and orphans.



GOLD

GOLD

"Or" (from the French word for gold) is the tincture of Gold, or in heraldic terms "or," was considered the noblest color.
One of only two metals used in heraldry, it exceeds all others in value, purity and finesse. It represents the light of the sun, and was once borne only by princes. Gold is said to gladden the heart and destroy all works of magic. It is also associated with excellence and achievement, and the bearer surpasses all others in valor.
It is represented on coats of arms by the color yellow, and in engravings by a dotted pattern.



BLACK

BLACK

Sable (Archaic or literary English for black) or black, the coldest of the colors, corresponds to lead. Black, or "sable," is symbolic of sadness. It also corresponds with winter and is a humble color, suitable for the deeply religious. It denotes the qualities of knowledge, piety, serenity and work. Engravers represent it with numerous horizontal and vertical lines crossing each other.

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LION RAMPANT GUARDANT

A lion rampant guardant is one that is a rampant position but has its head turned to face the observer.

A lion rampant is shown upright with the left paw on the ground and the rest of the legs in an attacking position. The whole beast, unless otherwise blazoned, faces the dexter (its right). Rampant is often referred to as the "fighting position" and thus reflects an awareness, readiness or alert attitude of the bearer. Early heralds permitted only the lion to be rampant, but over time, many animals were given this position. It is probably the most dignified of all positions.

The Crest

The Crest was worn on top of the helmet, and was usually made of wood, metal, or boiled leather. It provided the double advantage of easy identification and the addition of height to the wearer. If a family had no crest, and many chose not to, plumes (feathers) were often displayed instead.

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Conclusion

Suggested Further Readings

"Funk Forebears" by Norma J. Kinney.
"A Tree Grows in Funks Grove: A History of the Funk-Stubblefield Families of McLean County, Illinois" by Stephen C. Funk.

Please note: We do not have these publications in our library. They come from the catalog of Genealogical titles in the collection of the Library of Congress. Most of these Genealogies were published by their authors, probably with one small print run. You can locate these publications through the Library of Congress (http://catalog.loc.gov/webvoy.htm), or we would suggest trying to contact a library in the locale of publication (you may be able to use inter-library loan, through your local library).

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Appendix - Notable List

Notables with the First and Middle Names Funk

- Herbert Funk Goodrich (1889-1962) judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- Joel Funk Asper (1822-1872) American Republican politician, Delegate to Republican National Convention from Missouri, 1868; U.S. Representative from Missouri 7th District, 1869-71 [6]
- Herbert Funk Goodrich (1889-1962) American Democrat politician, Judge of U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, 1940-62 [7]

Notables for the Surname Funk

- Lorenz Funk Sr. (1947-2017) German bronze medalist ice hockey player who played for the West German national team
- Wes Funk (1968-2015) Canadian writer based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Brigadier-General Arnold John Funk (1895-1980) American Commandant of Camp Edwards (1952) [2]
- Corporal Jesse Nathaniel Funk (1888-1933) United States Army soldier and a recipient of the Medal of Honor
- Isaac Kauffman Funk (1839-1912) American publisher and co-founder of Funk & Wagnalls Co. in 1891 which was best known for its Standard Dictionary of the English Language (1893)
- Casimir Funk (1884-1967) Polish biochemist who discovered vitamins in 1912
- Leonard A Funk (1916-1992) highly decorated American soldier awarded both the Medal of Honor and the Croix de Guerre during WWII [3]
- Christian Funk (1731-1811) American Mennonite bishop and author
- Dory Funk (1919-1973) American professional wrestler
- Joseph Funk (1778-1862) pioneer American music teacher and publisher

Surname Variants of Funk

- Urs Fankhauser (1943-2018) Swiss rower at the 1968 Summer Olympics and the 1972 Summer Olympics
- Arthur Jay Finkelstein (1945-2017) American political consultant
- Philip "Fyvush" Finkel (1922-2016) American Emmy Award nominated actor, best known for his role as lawyer Douglas Wambaugh on the television series Picket Fences
- David Ritz Finkelstein (1929-2016) American emeritus professor of physics at the Georgia Institute of Technology
- Elizabeth Fink (1945-2015) American civil rights and criminal defense attorney, known for her lawsuits concerning the Attica Prison riots
- Hans Funck (1952-1953) German film editor
- Henry Funkhouser, owner of the Henry Funkhouser Farm and Log House, a historic home in Baker, Hardy County, West Virginia listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001
- Howard Gray Funkhouser (1898-1984) American mathematician

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- Jaromír Funke (1896-1945) Czech photographer, co-founder of the Czech Photographic Society
- Michael Funke (b.1969) German racing driver
- Joachim Funke (b.1953) German professor of psychology at the University of Heidelberg, Germany
- Cornelia Caroline Funke (b.1958) German author of children's books who has sold over 10 million copies of her books
- Maurice Herman Finkel (1888-1949) American architect and Yiddish theater actor
- Johannes Finkel, Swiss maker of bows of violins, violas, cellos, and basses
- Caroline Finkel, British historian and writer
- Raphael Finkel (b.1951) American computer scientist and a professor
- Shelly Finkel (b.1944) American boxing and music manager and promoter
- Robbi Finkel (b.1950) American and Canadian composer
- Donald Alexander Finkel (1929-2008) American poet
- Dave Finkel (b.1970) American television producer, actor, and screenwriter

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Appendix - Historic Event List

Arrow Air Flight 1285

On December 12, 1985 Arrow Air Flight 1285 on route from Cairo, Egypt via Gander, Newfoundland, Canada to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, USA carrying Army Personnel including troops from the 101st Airborne Division who had completed deployment in Sinai, Egypt. The DC-8-63CF aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff appearing to have difficulties, all 248 passengers and 8 crew died in the crash.

Surname Variants of Funk

- Mr. Kevin Foster Fink (b.1962) American Private from Dayton, Pennsylvania, USA who died in the crash [8]

Bismarck

On May 24th, 1941, the Battle of the Denmark Strait began. On the allied side, the HMS Prince of Wales and the HMS Hood were fighting the German Battleship Bismarck and the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen. After less than ten minutes, the Bismarck had hit HMS Hood and she exploded, sinking three minutes later.

Thus began the Royal Navy's relentless pursuit of the Bismarck involving dozens of warships. Damaged from the battle, the Bismarck was forced to retreat. Heading to France she was pursued by British ship and aircraft.

On May 26th 1941 after breaking radio silence, her peruses caught up with and caused further damage forcing the crew to scuttle her and abandon ship. She sunk with a crew of over 2,200 men of these only 114 survived most picked up by the British ships before a German U Boat entered the area to rescue three and later a trawler scooped the last crew member from the water.

Surname Variants of Funk

- Gerhard Funke (1921-1941) German Matrose II who served aboard the German Battleship Bismarck during World War II when it was sunk heading to France; he died in the sinking [9]

RMS Titanic

A British passenger liner en route from Southampton, UK to New York City, USA sunk in the early morning of April the 15th 1912. Operated by the White Star Line the RMS Titanic was traveling through Newfoundland when she hit an iceberg on the 14th April 1912 at 11.40pm ship's time. During the course of the night passengers and crew were evacuated to lifeboats, however of the 2,224 passenger and crew over 1,500 people died. The lifeboats could carry 1,178 people, which at the time was just over half the number on board.

- Miss Annie Clemmer Funk (d.1912) aged 38, Indian Second Class passenger from Janjgir-Champa, India who sailed aboard the RMS Titanic and died in the sinking [4]

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USS Arizona

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began shortly after 8.00 local time on the 7th December 1941, the aircraft deployed from six aircraft carriers struck the Pacific Fleet as it sat in the harbor, and the USS Arizona was one of these ships defending Hawaii. The Air raid alarm started on board at 7.55, shortly after 8.00 ten Nakajima B5N torpedo bombers started their attack with several near misses as small ricochets' they struck USS Arizona in the vicinity of Turrett II believing to have penetrated the armored deck near the ammunition magazines, causing the forward magazines to detonated and create a cataclysmic explosion, causing 1177 of the 1512 crewmen aboard the USS Arizona to lose their lives. There is memorial in place in Pearl Harbor across the ships sunken remains which includes a shrine room listing the names of the lost crew members.

- Mr. Frank Francis Funk, American Boatswain's Mate Second Class from Missouri, USA working aboard the ship "USS Arizona" when she sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7th December 1941, he died in the sinking [5]
- Mr. Lawrence Henry Funk, American Seaman First Class from Wisconsin, USA working aboard the ship "USS Arizona" when she sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7th December 1941, he died in the sinking [5]

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Appendix - Settler List

American Settlers

- Hans Funk, who arrived in America in 1731 [1]
- Samuel Funk, who arrived in America in 1731 [1]
- Hendrick Funk, aged 36, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1738 [1]
- Anna Funk, who settled in Philadelphia in 1738
- Georg Funk, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1741 [1]
- Hans Nicholas Funk, who arrived in New York, NY in 1754 [1]
- Martin Funk, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1761 [1]
- Joseph Funk, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1765 [1]
- Frederick Funk, who landed in Allegany (Allegheny) County, Pennsylvania in 1836 [1]
- Bernhard Funk, who landed in North America in 1837 [1]
- Valentin Funk, who landed in North America in 1837 [1]
- Johannes Funk, who arrived in North America in 1838 [1]
- Adam Funk, who landed in Mississippi in 1841 [1]
- Christoph H Funk, aged 50, who arrived in Missouri in 1843 [1]
- Michael Funk, who arrived in St Clair County, Illinois in 1843 [1]
- Christ Funk, who landed in Texas in 1845 [1]
- Jac Funk, who landed in Texas in 1845 [1]
- Friedrich Werner Funk, who arrived in Texas in 1846 [1]
- George Funk, aged 24, who landed in Missouri in 1848 [1]
- Nicholas J Funk, who landed in St Clair County, Illinois in 1856 [1]
- John W Funk, who arrived in St Clair County, Illinois in 1857 [1]
- Henry Funk, who landed in Iowa in 1863 [1]
- Elisab Funk, aged 8, who landed in New York, NY in 1873 [1]
- Cath Funk, aged 7, who landed in New York, NY in 1873 [1]
- Marie Funk, aged 5, who landed in New York, NY in 1873 [1]
- Joh Funk, aged 6, who arrived in New York, NY in 1873 [1]
- Comlius Funk, aged 21, who landed in New York, NY in 1873 [1]
- Hein Funk, aged 14, who arrived in New York, NY in 1873 [1]
- Cornelius Funk, aged 28, who arrived in Nebraska in 1874 [1]
- Helena Funk, aged 23, who landed in Nebraska in 1874 [1]
- Abraham Funk and his wife Elis, Mennonites who immigrated to Philadelphia in 1875 with their four children
- Corn Funk, aged 23, who landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1875 [1]
- Gerhard Funk, aged 16, who landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1877 [1]
- Helene Funk, aged 4, who arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1877 [1]

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- Catherine Funk, aged 5, who landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1877 [1]
- David Funk, aged 17, who arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1877 [1]
- Adelgunde Funk, aged 8, who arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1877 [1]
- Adelgunde Funk, aged 72, who landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1877 [1]
- Anna Funk, who arrived in New York, NY in 1878 [1]
- Maria Funk, aged 7, who landed in New York, NY in 1884 [1]
- Johann Funk, aged 33, who landed in New York, NY in 1884 [1]
- Heinr Funk, aged 46, who arrived in New York, NY in 1885 [1]

Canadian Settlers

- Peter Funk, who landed in Manitoba in 1874
- Peter Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1874
- Johan Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1874
- John Funk, who landed in Manitoba in 1874
- Anganetha Krahn and Isaak Funk, who were recorded to be living in Québec in 1874
- Abraham Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1874
- Isaac Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1875
- Jacob Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1875
- Jacob Funk, who landed in Manitoba in 1875
- Abraham Funk, who landed in Manitoba in 1875
- Berhard Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1875
- John Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1875
- John Funk, who landed in Manitoba in 1875
- Johan Funk, who landed in Manitoba in 1875
- Peter Funk, who landed in Manitoba in 1875
- Peter Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1876
- Johan Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1876
- Paul Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1876
- Jacob Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1876
- Franz Funk, who arrived in Manitoba in 1876

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Bibliography

Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching German surnames. The resources below directly or indirectly influenced the authors of our surname histories. We have most of these titles in our library, others we have borrowed or had access to. Source materials have been chosen for their reliability and authenticity. Our research into surnames is ongoing, and we are continually adding to our source library. For each surname history, we seek and refer to sources specific to the surname; these are generally not included in the list below.

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